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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 8875]

Secretary of State's Determination under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998

SUMMARY: The Secretary of State's designation of "Countries of Particular Concern" for religious freedom violations.

Pursuant to section 408(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-292), as amended (the Act), notice is hereby given that, on July 18, 2014, the Secretary of State, under authority delegated by the President, has designated each of the following as a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC) under section 402(b) of the Act, for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom: Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The Secretary simultaneously designated the following Presidential Actions for these CPCs:

For **Burma**, the existing ongoing arms embargo referenced in 22 CFR 126.1(a) pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act;

For **China**, the existing ongoing restriction on exports to China of crime control and detection instruments and equipment, under the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246), pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act;

For **Eritrea**, the existing ongoing arms embargo referenced in 22 CFR 126.1(a) pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act;

For **Iran**, the existing ongoing travel restrictions based on serious human rights abuses under section 221(a)(1)(C) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act;

For **North Korea**, the existing ongoing restrictions to which North Korea is subject, pursuant to sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974 (the Jackson-Vanik Amendment) pursuant to section

402(c)(5) of the Act;

For **Saudi Arabia**, a waiver as required in the “important national interest of the United States,” pursuant to section 407 of the Act;

For **Sudan**, the restriction on making certain appropriated funds available for assistance to the Government of Sudan in the annual Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, currently set forth in section 7042(j) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2014 (Div. K, Pub. L. 113-76), and any provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as this provision, pursuant to section 402(c)(5) of the Act;

For **Turkmenistan**, a waiver as required in the “important national interest of the United States,” pursuant to section 407 of the Act; and

For **Uzbekistan**, a waiver as required in the “important national interest of the United States,” pursuant to section 407 of the Act.

Dated: September 16, 2014.

Kari Johnstone,
Office Director,
Office of International Religious Freedom,
Department of State.

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